



Manchester  
Public  
Schools



What's  
Today's  
News?

## Creativity a Major Focus for 2014-2015...



**One major focus of the Manchester Public Schools is to promote creativity and innovation in students.**

This focus is evident through our Play Counts initiative in Kindergarten this year. Constructive play is an important part of the cognitive, physical, and socio-emotional development of children. As you already know, kindergartners are full of energy. When kindergartners are able to release energy through constructive play, they can accommodate more information.

Numerous studies note a strong link between play and learning. Children are full of natural curiosity and they explore this curiosity through play. Play teaches children how to problem solve, make friends, express themselves, enjoy the world around them, and recognize letters and numbers. All of these skills form the foundation of a love of learning.



**By intentionally structuring play as part of our kindergarten daily routine multiple learning moments will be provided for our students.**

While children play, they'll chat with their friends, and figure out how to stop their block tower from falling. They'll draw pictures, role-play, tell stories, and listen to others. All of these opportunities will assist our children to develop, learn, and eventually acquire the skills that they will need in grade one and beyond. While Play Counts is a Kindergarten initiative, we are also promoting creativity in all classrooms through lessons, projects, and activities. The links below explain practical strategies for promoting creativity at home.



[NAESP Link \(English\)](#) [NAESP Link \(Spanish\)](#)



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